



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/928,859

08/13/2001

Andreas Sahlbach

20010013

7848

7590

12/02/2005

HEWLET-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/928,859

Applicant(s)

SAHLBACH, ANDREAS

Examiner

Courtney D. Fields

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 are pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, Tabbara et al. (US Patent No. 6,886,038).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabbara et al. (US Patent No. 6,886,038).

Referring to the rejection of claims 1, 13, and 25, Tabbara et al. discloses a Method for providing a switch user functionality in a server-agent environment in an IT network comprising:

generating a switch user (SU) certificate using public-key cryptography upon receiving a request to switch from a user account presently used on the node to another user account (See Column 14, lines 15-40)

sending the SU certificate to the agent (See Column 14, lines 40-49)

checking the correctness of the SU certificate (See Column 14, lines 50-60)
and performing the requested switch to the other user account provided that the
SU certificate is correct (See Column 14, lines 61-67, Column 15, lines 1-14)

Referring to the rejection of claims 2 and 14, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed
limitation wherein the server-agent environment comprises a network management
server and wherein the agent is management agent running on a managed node (See
Column 4, lines 15-33)

Referring to the rejection of claims 3 and 15, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed
limitation wherein the SU certificate is generated by a designated server (See Column
13, lines 51-62)

Referring to the rejection of claims 4 and 16, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed
limitation wherein the agent forwards the received SU certificate to a domain controller
which checks the correctness of the SU certificate and allows the agent to perform the
requested switch user (See Column 13, lines 63-67)

Referring to the rejection of claims 5 and 17, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed
limitation wherein a private and public key pair is available before the method begins
(See Column 13, lines 67- Column 14, lines 1-7)

Referring to the rejection of claims 6 and 18, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed
limitation wherein the public key is made public within the network or within a domain of
the network in which the correctness of the SU certificate is checked (See Column 14,
lines 21-25)

Referring to the rejection of claims 7 and 19, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the generation of the SU certificate comprises signing an SU document with the private key and wherein the checking of the SU certificate comprises verifying the signature with the public key (See Column 14, lines 50-64)

Referring to the rejection of claims 8 and 20, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the step of checking the correctness of the SU certificate comprises verifying that the SU certificate originates from a designated server and has not been modified (See Column 15, lines 4-14)

Referring to the rejection of claims 9 and 21, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate contains no password relating to the account to which the switch is to be performed (See Column 16, lines 58-64)

Referring to the rejection of claims 10 and 22, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate comprises the account name to which the account is to be switched and an identification of the node for which the switch is to be performed (See Column 16, lines 15-32)

Referring to the rejection of claims 11 and 23, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate comprises a time stamp or another certificate identification stamp (See Column 14, lines 33-49)

Referring to the rejection of claims 12 and 24, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the step of checking comprises verifying that the certificate is not outdate or has not been used before, by means of the time stamp or the certificate identification stamp (See Column 8, lines 54-67, Column 9, lines 1-12)

Referring to the rejection of claim 26, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate generation component is a part of the management server (See Column 14, lines 61-67, Column 15, lines 1-3)

Referring to the rejection of claim 27, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate checking component is a part of the domain controller (See Column 16, lines 47-57)

Referring to the rejection of claim 28, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein a public key publication component (See Column 14, lines 4-14)

Referring to the rejection of claim 29, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate generation component comprises an digital signature component which signs an SU document with a private key corresponding to the public key and wherein the SU certificate checking component comprises a signature verification component (See Column 17, lines 14-39)

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sutton et al. (Pub No. 2003/0037177) discloses a multiple device management method and system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

Art Unit: 2137

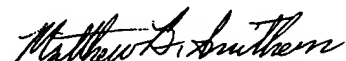
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



cdf

November 27, 2005



MATTHEW SMITHERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2137